

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR WOLF PROPOSALS
COMMENTS RECEIVED AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2020

1. **Name:** *michael ober*
Phone Number: 4068909472
Email: michaelober209@gmail.com

Has the FWP lost it's mind? The proposal to double the wolf harvest numbers is out of step with all science and common sense. The FWP needs to stop right now in its relentless pandering to the gun crowd and dial back the wolf harvest in R1. I live on the North Fork of the Flathead near Blankenship bridge and look across the river into Glacier Park. I have been here for 47 years. It is a RARE moment when I get to see or hear a wolf. And, by the way, the elk population has not declined because of the presence of wolves. We see them cross the river all the time. Please reconsider the doubling of wolf harvest immediately and please forward this message as my official correspondence and objection to the appropriate officials in charge of concocting this ridiculous change to the current rules. After all, what earthly good is a dead wolf? You can't eat them. It is like shooting the family dog. Only the gun nuts who get off on killing other living things so they can brag about it want expanded quotas. Leave the wolves alone and address the impending feral pig problem, soon to arrive on the northern border. Turn the gun folks loose on them...! Thank you.

2. **From:** *Margarita McLarty* <mclarty1@outlook.com>
Sent: *Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:07 PM*
To: *FWP Commission* <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: *[EXTERNAL] Changing Montana FWP Wolf Hunting and Trapping quotas and seasons*

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

As a retired private guide who had a license for twenty years in Yellowstone Park, I have been privileged to observe the growing repopulation of wolves in our beloved state. Because of my intimate knowledge of these prime carnivores, I am writing to you with a plea to not extend either the quotas nor the length of seasons for hunting and trapping Montana wolves.

We have a precarious population of a still recovering species, and we need to give them more time to re-establish their rightful place in our various ecosystems.

Wolves are an excellent check on the spread of chronic wasting disease.

Hunting disrupts pack social structure and thus contributes to human/wolf encounters with pack members radically changing behaviors as a result of fractured pack support.

Trapping is proved to impact other, non-intended species as often as the intended species, and is an increasing danger to the greater numbers of domestic pets and children who are frequenting our public lands.

To promote the health of our public lands I am pleading with you to oppose any measures that will increase the likelihood of more wolf deaths that your current quotas allow. Please also consider establishing tighter restrictions on trapping on our public lands to protect humans, domestic and wildlife from cruel and unnecessary harm and death.

Regards,

Margarita McLarty

Don & Margarita McLarty
Mclarty1@outlook.com
85 Chicory Rd, Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 333-4746 Home
(406) 570-1112 Cell (rarely "on")

3. **From:** Apryll Verboven <wickedwoolies@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 5:57 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Wolf hunting extension

To Whom it may Concern at FWP Commission,

I am writing you today to voice my string opposition to extending the wolf hunting and trapping seasons, also I oppose the increase of bag limit from five to 10 wolves in Region 1. Please maintain the number of wolves allowed to be killed in unit 313, and 316, and at one per unit.

I am a resident of Condon located in region 1, and regularly recreate on public lands adjacent to and also far from my home. Living in an area with a healthy wolf population is a rich experience. I would hate to see our local wolves reduced any more than they currently are. I meet many folks from near and far in the Swan Valley wolf hunting and trapping, I believe our local wolf packs would be negatively impacted by increased hunting time and quota numbers. Because many hunters and trappers see the Swan Valley as a likely place to fill their tag. Pressure is great here already!! The packs struggle when members are removed and although I don't know of any local conflicts, stressing packs is documented to increase negative behavior with life stock.

Thank you for your time,
April Verboven
Condon Mt 59826

4. **From:** Sarah Stewart <sarahbstewart@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 2:33 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments in opposition to expansion of wolf trapping and hunting.

Dear FWP Commissioners,

We are writing to request that you reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 two one or zero, to NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves.

We would appreciate it if you would accept our thoughts below:

- Wolves are important for healthy Montana ecosystems and should not be managed based on politics, but with care and according to the best available science. This is particularly crucial in this time of climate change and instability for wildlife.
- Wolves are really important in containing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist, has stated that "Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease." He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves "allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place."
- We are very concerned that FWP does not listen to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for 'recreation.' Instead, FWP seems to put wishes of a smaller group of hunters and trappers. This isn't right. The general public and the large eco- tourism industry wants to see living wolves. This is what our family depends on. Wolves should not be managed for those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive
- Very importantly, indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts with the killing of alpha family members and leads to a reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.
- Killing wolves for recreation and trophies is lousy! It promotes cruelty and a view of wildlife and objects and not other living, feeling creatures warranting respect and care.
- Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to our comments as Montana citizens.

Sincerely, The Stewart Family, 1045 US Highway 89 South, Gardiner, Montana, 59030

5. **From:** info@tfmpl.org <info@tfmpl.org>

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 1:32 PM

To: scolton@yellowstonelaw.com; Tim Aldrich <cartim8@gmail.com>;

fwpdistrict2@gmail.com; rstuker@itstriangle.com; lwbrower@yahoo.com

Cc: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>; Williams, Martha <Martha.Williams@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] CWD and wolves

Dear Chairman Colton, Commissioners, Director Williams,

Given the spread and seriousness of CWD in Montana, how scientifically just, financially wise, and professionally responsible is it to increase quotas and the means to kill more wolves in Region 1 or elsewhere in our state?

At this point, can you really afford to reduce any tool in the toolbox or hinder a biologically and perhaps most effective ally against CWD?

"Chronic Wasting Disease is Creating a 'New Reality' in Montana. Wildlife Managers say they'll need money to keep up."

<http://bit.ly/2UyRTOK> [bit.ly]

Thank you,

KC York



Utilizing the truths in trapping & promoting ethics, the best available science & responsible stewardship for trapping reform. We partner with our sister organization, Trap Free Montana, a 501-c3, educational charitable organization.

[Trap Free Montana Public Lands \[tfmpl.org\]](http://www.tfmpl.org), Inc.

PO Box 1347

Hamilton, Montana 59840

406-218-1170

www.tfmpl.org [tfmpl.org]

6. **From: Sheila Kraus <sheila.m.kraus@gmail.com>**
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 5:29 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Do not accept the proposal to the wolf hunting season in region 1

Please Do NOT accept the proposal to the wolf hunting season in Region 1 that extends another one and half months to the season and do NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves. If the proposal is passed it will lead to the extinction of the Gray Wolf in region 1. It will not lead to a management plan of coexistence with the Gray Wolf.. This is NOT good management of coexistence with the gray wolf. It is time to recognize the vital role that the Gray Wolf can play in the fight against Chronic Wasting Disease in removing the infected elk and deer and helping to stop the continued spreading of CWD in Montana.

7. **From:** *brent morrow* <hilemann@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 12:08 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Do not increase Wolf Kills...

FWP,

Please do not to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons to increase the bag limit from five to 10 wolves in Region 1, and to maintain the number of wolves allowed to be killed in unit 33 and 316, just north of Yellowstone National Park, at one per unit.

In 2017 254 wolves were killed. Too many Wolves are being killed, and I suspect many are being poached, as referenced by social media comments. Also, we will need Wolves to help in the spread of CWD.

Thanks,

Brent Morrow
Condon, MT

8. **From:** *Brandi York* <brandi.york@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 3:39 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Expanded wolf season

Hello,

It's been reported in the news today that the Wolf season may be extended and the number of animals increased from 5 per person to 10. I did not see this in the news prior to today, even though the fwp website indicates the comment period closed on Jan 27th.

I am opposed to expanding the Wolf season and certainly opposed to increasing the number of animals to 10 per person. More than anything I am opposed to extending the trapping season or having any trapping season. No animal should have to be trapped when we can put them down quickly with a gun instead. Even more than that, I recreate in the wilderness with my dogs 12 months out of the year and I'm always worried that they may become caught in a trap. I have been a hunter myself and know it's important to help the herds by hunting.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter,
Brandi York

9. **From:** *Susan Erickson* <susan.erickson85@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:33 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Expanding Wolf Hunting - Opposed

Dear FWP Commissioners,

I oppose the expansion of wolf hunting activities in Montana. I oppose any trapping of wolves in our state. Trapping is cruel and unnecessary.

Too many wolves are being killed during the current wolf hunting season. Our wolf population needs to be protected.

Wolves are an important part of the predator-prey ecosystem. Wolves keep elk and deer populations healthy and in check. Without wolves, there is overpopulation of grazing animals and habitat damage.

Eco-tourism is growing in Montana and people want to see wolves.

I request a NO vote on wolf hunting expansion. Thank you for considering my comments.

Susan Erickson
Polson

10. **From:** Shirlee Glade <nclearviewroad@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Extended wolf trapping

I am against this. I am against any wolf trapping. It is so cruel. FEP seems to exist to cater to trappers and hunters so they can collect fees.

Sent from my iPhone

11. **From:** Cathy Scholtens <cscholtensmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 10:33 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Extending Wolf Season

Dear FWP,

I am adamantly **OPPOSED to the proposed extension of the wolf hunt season**. We have spent the entire winter hiking in one or two limited areas with our dogs due to the hunting/trapping season. If hunters/trappers didn't get their quota then there is always next year. According to what I have read this year's "harvest" was the highest total of wolves on record in Montana. Let them be.

All data points to wolves being necessary to health populations of ungulates, as well as the sequella that flows from healthy herds... better stream cover, healthier wildlife populations etc. Yellowstone is a great example.

I want my time in the woods also, and I want my dogs free from the possibility of traps or getting mistaken for a wolf.

Trappers and hunters have had their time, let recreationalists have ours.

Cathy Scholtens

12. **From:** Cara McGary <cara.mcgary@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:43 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feb 13 Meeting - Comments

Dear Commissioners,

Firstly, thank you for all the work that you do to ensure best management practices for all of our wildlife in Montana.

Regrettably, I will not be able to attend the Feb 13th meeting in Helena or within my region. I would have attended the Feb 6th meeting, that was originally announced, but when the new date was announced, I already had a client booked for that day and I must meet that commitment. I checked with all of the other guides that I know in Gardiner, Livingston and Bozeman and they are all booked. In future, would it be possible to announce and maintain a date for the meeting much further in advance (6 months minimum), so that we can ensure that we keep that date open and can attend? Also, we had no meeting in Gardiner this year, despite initial indications that we would. I have submitted written comments to the MTFWP website prior to the Jan 27th deadline, but I am gravely concerned that my input and interests are not going to be considered because I cannot be at the commissioners meeting in person. Is there anything else we can do? My concerns are summarized below:

I am a biologist, small Montana business owner and guide in Yellowstone. While hunting doesn't occur within the boundaries of the national park, it does impact the wildlife populations that my livelihood depends on. I run about 130 wildlife watching trips per year in Yellowstone. Everyone wants to see our large predators: wolves, grizzlies and cougars. Of course, wolves and cougars follow their prey to lower elevations in the winter and are subject to hunting pressures. It looks terrible for all of us residents in the state of Montana when we have to explain how a badly limping wolf inside the park was injured by a hunter just outside the park and is suffering and struggling because the shot was not taken well. It's shameful having to talk about the illegal hunting of mountain lion in the park and the legally questionable demise of the black female wolf just outside the northeast boundary of Yellowstone (ditto with the bison hunted there and left to spoil). Hunting predators adjacent to Yellowstone impacts my sighting success and my business success as well as visitor perceptions of our state. As such, I strongly support the lowest possible quotas for units adjacent to Yellowstone for both wolves and cougars and I support shortened hunting seasons, not longer seasons as now proposed.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Cara McGary

In Our Nature Guiding Services LLC

PO Box 501, Gardiner MT 59030

(406) 579-3838

in-our-nature.com [in-our-nature.com]

13. **From:** Rose Westerman <eagleshill@ronan.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 8:45 AM
To: FWP Commission <FwComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] [Missoulain] Don't sanction more wolf hunting, trapping

please do not kill more as did you read the story on MSN sad how hunters are never satisfied .

I thought you would be interested in this story I found on MSN:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://a.msn.com/01/en-us/BBZLMMh?ocid=se2_!!GaaboA!405WdUXmlisPWYOUNmJkf7uo6clTtwH3PW5JpKAqBfWH136F4iBRDZ4-UtEZEbk\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://a.msn.com/01/en-us/BBZLMMh?ocid=se2_!!GaaboA!405WdUXmlisPWYOUNmJkf7uo6clTtwH3PW5JpKAqBfWH136F4iBRDZ4-UtEZEbk$)

[https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://missoulain.com/opinion/letters/don-t-sanction-more-wolf-hunting-trapping/article_27ea2dd4-eaac-53c3-9e81-434b04220d58.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share_!!GaaboA!405WdUXmlisPWYOUNmJkf7uo6clTtwH3PW5JpKAqBfWH136F4iBRDZ4-62RrRLc\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://missoulain.com/opinion/letters/don-t-sanction-more-wolf-hunting-trapping/article_27ea2dd4-eaac-53c3-9e81-434b04220d58.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share_!!GaaboA!405WdUXmlisPWYOUNmJkf7uo6clTtwH3PW5JpKAqBfWH136F4iBRDZ4-62RrRLc$)

14. **From:** elisabeth.bechmann@kstp.at <elisabeth.bechmann@kstp.at>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 1:54 PM
To: FWP Commission <FwComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana, do Not allow the killing of even more Wolves, this must END NOW!

To the FWP Commission members:

In Montana, wildlife killers, rural legislators and ranchers, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) dictate the prosecution of Wolves.

Consequently, archaic management is done by numbers, with prejudice, instead of the best available science and with compassion.

In 2017 alone, at least 254 wolves were killed for recreation and trophies. Hunters killed 166 wolves and trappers killed 88 wolves. An additional 100 wolves are allowed to be killed on private lands. Yet, the wolf killers are not satisfied and want even more wolves to die.

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is now proposing to even Extend! the merciless sadistic hunting and trapping seasons for Wolves!

You are proposing the following changes in Northwest Montana (Region 1), where nearly 50% of the total number of Wolves are killed every year! We are AGAINST

1. Extending the general and archery hunting season by one month, to begin two weeks earlier, on August 15 (instead of September 1) and two weeks longer through March 31 (instead of March 15).
2. Extending the trapping season by two weeks through March 15 – the wolf trapping season currently starts at December 15 and ends on Feb. 28.
3. Increasing the 'bag limit' for an individual hunter/trapper from 5 to 10 (!) wolves. The proposal also does not drop the wolf quota in two units (313, 316) just north of Yellowstone National Park as a previous proposal suggested and instead, maintains to kill two wolves in each unit!!!!

Do Not allow the killing of even more Wolves, this must END NOW!

Every individual wolf matters for her/himself, for their mates, families, ecosystem health and for us, who value them alive! I condemn these disastrous plans!

FWP Commissioners, I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 from two to one, to NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves.

Instead, please consider the following:

Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.

Wolves may contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist has stated that "Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease." He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves "allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place": <https://bit.ly/2udVBms>

FWP caters to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for 'recreation.' Wolves should not be managed for those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive and thriving.

Indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts when killing of key family members leads to a reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.

Killing wolves for recreation and trophies is appalling human behavior.

Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals!

Sincerely:

Dr. Elisabeth Bechmann
Austria

15. **From:** Thesmophoros <thesmophoros@yahoo.de>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:55 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana, do Not allow the killing of even more Wolves, this must END NOW!

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Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals!

Sincerely:

Maria Schneider

16. **From:** *Sau Sang* <peachie104@gmail.com>
Sent: *Friday, February 7, 2020 8:23 AM*
To: *FWP Commission* <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: *[EXTERNAL] Montana, do Not allow the killing of even more Wolves, this must END NOW*

To the FWP Commission members:

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Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals!

Sincerely:

sang

17. From: Kari I Gunderson <cnd2543@blackfoot.net>

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 11:48 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MORE wolf hunting and trapping in MT is NOT acceptable

Dear FWP Commissioners,

I am a third generation Montanan who is asking you to NOT extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons, NOT to increase the bag limit from 5 to 10 wolves in Region 2, and to maintain the number of wolves allowed to be “harvested,” i.e. “killed,” in unit 313 and 316, just north of Yellowstone National Park, at one per unit.

I live in the Swan Valley and co-exist with top predators on the top of the food chain including grizzly and black bears, mountain lions, lynx, wolverines, and wolves. I take the measures to discourage predators from becoming habituated to human garbage and livestock feed that is left unsecured. I bring my dogs inside at nighttime. It’s not hard to do. More whitetail deer are hit and killed on Hwy 83 than taken during hunting season so why aren’t we addressing that issue? Speeding and careless motorists

present a greater risk to ungulate species than predators. We all know that the sale of hunting and trapping licenses are in decline. Why? The majority of Americans are appalled at the unethical hunters and trappers who shoot elk for the trophy head and leave the rest of it to rot or trappers who carelessly place traps in areas where people with pets recreate.. Outdoor recreationists want to take their dogs (pets) on winter outings but are prevented from doing so in fear that their pet (dog) will get caught in a trap that is too close to roads, trailheads, and trails. I am strongly opposed to increasing wolf hunting and trapping on public lands that belong to ALL Americans and we greatly outnumber hunters and trappers. The proposed FWP changes to increase wolf hunting and trapping equates to an outright slaughter of wolves and defies "fair chase."

I hope you are paying attention to the slaughter of wolves by outfitters outside of Denali National Park. Some unethical commercial outfitters do aerial flights to find out where the wolves are near the park boundary and are waiting with their clients who have paid LOTS of money to then shoot a wolf as soon as it leaves the park boundary. The wolf population has plummeted in Denali National Park. The same thing is happening on the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. This is NOT acceptable to the majority of Americans who do not hunt or trap. Why are special considerations given to ranchers who can take other measures to decrease predation on their cattle and sheep? There are many nonlethal methods to be considered.

These proposals give Montana get another "black eye" to Americans who don't live here but are public land owners. I pay close attention to politicized issues like the proposals to increase wolf hunting and trapping.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kari Gunderson, PhD.

18. **From:** Joyce Gavin <joyce.gavin@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:27 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO to extending wolf hunting...

To Whom It May Concern:

I am protesting the expanded extending wolf hunting and trapping, including deep within Wilderness areas and remote public lands.

Wolves used to exist on the entire North American continent and due to human expansion & destructive hunting their range has been reduced to a mere fraction of their original range. The species cannot maintain their already decimated numbers with such aggressive hunting tactics. This proposal acts as an attack on an already beleaguered species that holds a vital role in the natural ecosystem.

Destroying the wolf would actually damage the environment and other species that hunters rely upon.

Here are some reasons as to why we need wolves:

" Reason #1: Without wolves and other large predators, ecosystems can go haywire. A 2001 study ([PDF \[motherjones.com\]](https://www.motherjones.com)) found that when wolves went extinct in Yellowstone, for example, the moose

population ballooned to five times its normal size and demolished woody vegetation where birds nested. As a result, several bird species were eliminated in the park.



Photo courtesy Colby Anton/National Park Service

Reason #2: Scavengers thrive when wolves are around. The species that help themselves to wolves' leftovers include ([PDF \[motherjones.com\]](#)) ravens, magpies, wolverines, bald eagles, golden eagles, three weasel species, mink, lynx, cougar, grizzly bear, chickadees, masked shrew, great gray owl, and more than 445 species of beetle.

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Photo courtesy Brendan Oates/National Park Service

Reason #3: Wolf kills are also good for the soil. A 2009 [study \[ncbi.nlm.nih.gov\]](#) in Michigan's Isle Royale National Park found that wolf-killed elk carcasses dramatically enhanced levels of nitrogen and other nutrients.



Photo courtesy of Brendan Oates/National Park Service

Reason #4: Wolf kills feed more animals than hunting by humans, since wolves scatter their carrion over the landscape. Wolf kills benefit ([PDF \[motherjones.com\]](#)) three times more species than human hunting kills. The carcass above was a bull elk killed by a pack of eight wolves in Agate Creek, Yellowstone. The skeleton was picked clean by wolves and scavengers in less than five days.



Photo courtesy of Brendan Oates/National Park Service

Reason #5: When wolves disappeared from Yellowstone, coyotes preyed on pronghorn almost to the point of no return. But since wolves have returned, the pronghorn have [come back \[sciencedaily.com\]](#). In fact, pronghorns tend to give birth near wolf dens, since coyotes steer clear of those areas.



Photo courtesy of the US Fish and Wildlife Service

Reason #6: Deer and elk congregate in smaller groups ([PDF \[motherjones.com\]](#)) when wolves are around. This helps reduce the transmission of illnesses like Chronic Wasting Disease.



Photo courtesy of Colby Anton/National Park Service

Reason #7: [Chronic Wasting Disease \[en.wikipedia.org\]](#) is a major threat to elk and deer in the West. Wolves can [help \[motherjones.com\]](#) by reducing sick animals' lifespans, in turn limiting the amount of time they can spread infections.



Photo courtesy of the US Fish and Wildlife Service

Reason #8: Yellowstone elk are less likely [\[articles.latimes.com\]](https://www.latimes.com) to overgraze near rivers and streams—damaging fragile ecosystems—when wolves are in the neighborhood.



Photo courtesy of Rich Kirchner/ZUMA Press

Reason #9: Wolves help protect against climate change. A 2005 UC Berkeley study [\[plosbiology.org\]](https://www.plosbiology.org) in Yellowstone concluded that milder winters, a product of climate change, have led to fewer elk deaths. This left scavengers like coyotes and ravens scrambling for food, but the problem was far less pervasive in areas where wolves were around to hunt elk.



Photo courtesy of Colby Anton/National Park Service

Reason #10: Wolf tourism is an economic boon ([PDF \[motherjones.com\]](https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2011/04/10-reasons-protect-wolves-climate-change/)). Restoration of wolves in Yellowstone has cost about \$30 million, but it's brought in \$35.5 million annual net benefit to the area surrounding the park. Photo shows a Yellowstone Wolf Project biologist securing a VHF (very high frequency) tracking collar on a sedated wolf.

[https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2011/04/10-reasons-protect-wolves-climate-change/\[motherjones.com\]](https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2011/04/10-reasons-protect-wolves-climate-change/)

But ultimately there shouldn't have to be a justification as to why any species deserves to not be hunted into oblivion. This discussion only emphasizes the historical narrow minded destructiveness of human behavior. We should be intelligent enough not to destroy something for the sake of pleasure or profit.

Are we some stupid apes that will mindlessly destroy everything around us or are we beings that can use our consciousness and intellect to exist within our environment and with other species? Can we realize our actions cause harmful effects that ripple into the future in ways we can't predict and possibly can't amend?

I'm not so sure, but I guess we'll see.

In conclusion just leave these poor wolves alone please.

Sincerely,

A human being

19. **From: Natasha Osborn <frognchase@gmail.com>**
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 2:50 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to extending wolf hunting/trapping.

To the commissioners...

I am writing To let you know that I am very opposed to extending Wolf hunting and trapping season. I feel like our season is long enough, and as a dog lover, and hiker, object to not only having traps on our public lands, but also having ones that I need to be so very careful around. I also feel with elk numbers skyrocketing and CWD now present in our ungulate herds, that allowing wolves predate more of these outnumbered, and sick animals will only be beneficial. Please do not extend hunting and trapping season!

20. **From: sheridanb <sheridanb@blackfoot.net>**
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 12:54 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] no wolf trapping

Once again I've read that new rules are being considered regarding the hunting and trapping of wolves. And once again I am writing to you to say NO.

Please do not increase the numbers of wolves allowed to be killed.

And please stop letting anyone trap them! The traps are killing other animals and birds that were caught accidentally and that is senseless killing. Hunting, ok within reasonable limits. But don't increase those numbers of wolves allowed to be harvested.

I've lived in the Swan Valley for nearly 40 years without any problems with wolves. I know more people who have had tragedies happen because of traps or poison than people who have encountered wolf problems.

Stop the killing.

Sincerely,
Sheri Burden
Swan Lake, MT

21. **From: Glo Schindler <gloria@flipcause.com>**
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:52 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please DO NOT allow more wolves to be murdered

FWP Commissioners, I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 two one or zero, to NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves. Instead, please consider the following:

- ☐ Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.
- ☐ Wolves contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist, has stated that “Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease.” He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves “allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place.”
- ☐ FWP caters to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for ‘recreation.’ Wolves should not be managed for those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive.
- ☐ Indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts when killing of key family members leads to a reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.
- ☐ Killing wolves for recreation and trophies is appalling human behavior.
- ☐ Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals.

--

Glo Schindler | Flipcause
Senior Partnerships Manager
Pronouns: she/her/they/them
283 4th Street, Suite 101
Oakland, CA 94607
Direct Line: [\(510\) 545-4528](tel:5105454528)

22. **From: Melody Anderson <park_melody@icloud.com>**
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:25 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please dont kill the wolves

They are part of the intricate balance that keeps that part of nature healthy

Best regards

Melody Anderson

Sent from my iPhone

23. **From:** CATHERINE FRIZAT <cfrizat@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 3:46 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PLEASE REJECT Proposed Extension of Wolf hunting/Trapping season and PLEASE REJECT Proposed increase of bag limit!

Dear FWP Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to reject the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves.

There is NO NEED to kill more wolves in Montana! Already every year too many of these irreplaceable apex predators are removed from the landscape ! This proposal will lead to the disappearance of wolves in Montana and ultimately all of the American West. At the time when the world is facing the 6th extinction of species since the beginning of time, we do not need to continue eliminating wildlife ! By the contrary we need to INCREASE their protection.

Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.

Wolves may contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist has stated that "Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease." He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves "allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place": <https://bit.ly/2udVBms> [bit.ly]

Indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts when killing of key family members leads to a reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.

Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is an antiquated barbaric and cruel practice that has no place in a CIVILIZED 21st century.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Catherine Frizat

24. **From:** Anja Heister <loxodonta66@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:42 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: Williams, Martha <Martha.Williams@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal re wolves in Region 1

Dear FWP Commissioners,

I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 from two to one, to NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves. Instead, please consider the following:

1. Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.
2. Wolves may contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist has stated that "Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease." He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves "allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place": <https://bit.ly/2udVBms> [bit.ly]
3. FWP caters to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for 'recreation.' Wolves should not be managed for those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive.
4. Indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts when killing of key family members leads to a reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.
5. Killing wolves for recreation and trophies is appalling human behavior.
6. Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals.

Sincerely,

Anja Heister

25. **From:** Laura Howe <laurahowemt@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 9:20 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed extension of wolf trapping season

Dear FWP-

I urge you to reject that current proposal to extend the Wolf trapping season, which currently ends on March 1st, to allow it to extend to March 15th.

As up backcountry recreator with dogs, I believe the existing season is more than adequate for trappers to get whatever quota they need,. March 1st is the time to open the forests back up so that people like me can do so with their dogs, without the threat of being caught in a trap.

Pleaaee don't shut us out of our public lands for an even longer duration than we are excluded now. There are many more recreators with dogs than there are trappers, and we deserve a bit of safe winter fun too!

Thank you,

Laura Howe

Stevensville, MT

26. **From:** csmowgli <csmowgli@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:56 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Montana Wolf Proposals

Dear Commissioners and Wildlife Managers,

As a lifelong advocate of healthy ecosystems and predator respect and inclusion, I was deeply saddened again to learn of Montana's suggested plan to extend an already extensive trapping and hunting season of vital gray wolves to include excessive takes that defy scientific data and common-sense logic. Central Idaho is home to a remarkable and forward-thinking approach to wolf management that has promoted

predator inclusion using non-lethal methods with irrefutable success since 2008. If preventative and non-lethal measures are effective and less costly, promoting responsible and sustainable industries the world has come to respect and require for trade, Montana should be leading by example, rather than losing its economic appeal in favor of the status quo and injustice. The intrinsic value of our public lands with their ability to maintain and stabilize equilibrium naturally cannot be overstated. Recklessness with unnecessary violence through knee-jerk reactions begets more of the same, and true and purposeful wilderness suffers from the blight.

I am beseeching you today to wake up to the remedy of nature across Montana's massive landscapes that can heal the land given due respect without discrimination. It seems management of mountain lions and black bears is not nearly as intrusive and unreasonable. Wolves deserve their place as the true managers and apex predators of the wilderness they keep. As the killing continues, reproduction will increase and the void will again be filled in one form or another. And the vicious cycle will continue. I am praying here for peace in Montana.

Sincerely,

Craig S. Garrett

Hendersonville, NC

"Change is never easy, and sometimes it is far from beautiful. But if it's too much, and it's too big, we get startled and lash out in self-defence, fear and stress. But don't worry -- in the end everyone gets used to change. And perhaps one day we will notice that the wolves in the neighbourhood aren't so bad after all, that they haven't yet eaten any children or dogs, that they stay out of our way. Perhaps we will even forget about them now and again when we're walking in the woods. Or else we'll be grateful because they make us perceive the forest with all our senses, just by existing... somewhere out there."

-Elli Radinger, wolf expert and author

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](mailto:go.onelink.me)

27. **From:** Terry Spath <terryspath@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:32 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: More Wolf Killing

I expect that FWP has biologists on staff that have studied Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) that is now seen to be on the increase. I'd like to hear from them concerning predators and control of CWD. IIRC there are ~150,000 elk in Montana and something like 500 wolves. I believe I heard sometime back that a healthy ratio of wolves to elk is 1:17. Judging by the numerous elk I see on the highway and deer that I see in Lincoln, I believe that the predator / prey balance is way out of whack. My suspicion is that there is also a relationship between the low number of predators and the increase of CWD. Please let science trump politics as you make decisions concerning Montana's natural habitat.

Terry Spath

Lincoln, Montana

28. **From:** Rose Westerman <eagleshill@ronan.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 8:50 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rose

In Montana, wildlife killers, rural legislators and ranchers, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) dictate the prosecution of wolves. Consequently, [Fish, Wildlife and Parks \[missoulian.com\]](http://Fish, Wildlife and Parks [missoulian.com])' archaic management is done by numbers, with attitudes of hate, ignorance and prejudice, instead with the best available science and compassion.

In 2017 alone, at least 254 wolves were killed; hunters killed 166 wolves and trappers killed 88 wolves. An additional 100 wolves are allowed to be killed on private lands. Yet the wolf killers are not satisfied and want even more wolves to die.

29. **From:** Susan Waters <saswaters@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 8:54 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop the Killing of Wolves

Why all the persecution of wolves? This program of hatred, recreational killing, and stigma, NOT based on science, MUST STOP!

DO NOT extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons. DO NOT increase the bag limit from five to 10 wolves in Region 1. Maintain the number of wolves allowed to be killed in unit 313 and 316, just north of Yellowstone National Park, at one per unit.

Thank you.

30. **From:** Moira Ashleigh <moira@solsticesun.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 5:22 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop the killing

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

We need to rebalance wildlife to help our ecosystem and us survive.
Increasing killing only adds to the imbalance, and with our environment at such a critical tipping point it is not a smart move.
Wildlife Serial Killers need to be reined in not encouraged.

Thanks
Rev. Moira Ashleigh
EarthSpirit

31. **From:** Kate Kenner <faunesiegel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:55 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] the killing of wolves

Dear FWP Commissioners,

I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 from two to one, to NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves. Instead, please consider the following: Nature needs wolves as they balance populations of other species, they "clean" things up, and have so many roles to play. Healthy ecosystems need wolves.

Too often it is the hunters and ranchers who are catered to. It is not they who need the protection for they are not in danger. More people are starting to rethink the too long accepted killing wolves and it is time to listen to them instead of a small group. Ranchers wield far too much power and money and are responsible for the slaughter of too many animals. Your job should be to protect wildlife. Hunters kill not for any reason other than the thrills of killing prey and the ego boost they get from it. How can that be condoned? Wolves do not exist for those purposes. They are not disposable objects but living and feeling beings whose complex social and familial structures are disrupted or destroyed when alphas are killed and cubs left as orphans.

In the end it is time to stop senseless killing. Humans are not special or the most important species, though clearly too many think they/we are, but merely the one with the power-power that is too often abused. Wolves are not the enemy and they are not the most dangerous ones-that would be us.

I thank you for your time. I hope you will rethink the wanton slaughter of wolves.

Sincerely,

Kate Kenner

Vermont

32. From: Michelle Roberts <m.michelle.roberts@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 12:07 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] URGENT: Wolf Hunting & Trapping Comments

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you today because I am extremely concerned about our wolves and to kindly ask you to consider to please NOT extend the hunting & trapping seasons for our wolves. Also, please do not extend the bag limit from 5 to 10 in Region 1 and PLEASE I implore you to not raise the number of wolves allowed to be taken in Units 313 & 316, the areas just North of Yellowstone National Park.

These wolves have proven themselves to be a much greater benefit to Montana alive than dead. In fact, it is wolves alone that bring in millions of visitors every year to YNP & Montana & they spend millions of dollars watching wolves. I have personally met people from England & France while watching wolves & they believe our wolves are national treasures & do not understand why we would ever want to kill them. Many of the wolves being killed in these units are actually collared Yellowstone protected wolves who have unintentionally wandered into these areas by accident. Many of these wolves are not afraid of humans so are sitting targets for hunters, which isn't fair hunting practice.

There is also scientific evidence that shows we do not have any kind of shortage of elk to hunt & that as far as livestock, there are very few even taken by wolves & if it happens ranchers are able to be reimbursed & the suspected wolf loses its life.

Please know that I also have over 50,000 followers on social media that feel the exact way that I do about Montana's wolves. They should be protected not hunted to extinction. Wolves have a very difficult life in the first place just trying to survive at all. Please consider our opinions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle Roberts

Sent from my iPhone

33. **From:** Laurie Francis <lheistfrancis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 2:57 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf hunt - please don't expand

Hello,

Thanks for taking comments.

Please do not expand the wolf hunting season. I find even the one season problematic.

Thank you.

34. **From:** rob fee <robfee03@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:09 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf Hunt Montana

Dear FWP Commissioners,

I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 from two to one, to NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves. Instead, please consider the following:

1. Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.
2. Wolves may contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist has stated that "Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease." He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves "allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place": <https://bit.ly/2udVBms> [bit.ly]
3. FWP caters to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for 'recreation.' Wolves should not be managed for those who

enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive.

4. Indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts when killing of key family members leads to a reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.
5. Killing wolves for recreation and trophies is appalling human behavior.
6. Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals.

For these reason, I beg you please do not extend wolf hunting and trapping. We all have a stake in wildlife conservation and managing for the interest of a few is ineffective and wrong.

Thank you,

Rob

35. **From:** Jon Way <jw9802@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 12:16 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] wolf hunting

Dear MT FWP,

I am so disappointed to see the recommendation to raise the wolf quota back up to 2 around the northern part of Yellowstone. I suggest you ignore MTFWP and keep it at 1. I appreciate you considering it in the first place. My second trip of the year to Montana is occurring April 16-25 and I plan on observing wolves, bison and bears - all of whom should have more protections than currently enjoyed (grizzlies are only not killed because they are federally protected)...

I am also aghast that MT is planning on allowing hunters to kill up to 10 wolves and do it from August thru March. Your special interest focus never ceases to amaze me. This is unacceptable: like the tiny percent of wolf hunters don't already have enough animals and time to kill. Why don't you consider the general public and all of the non-hunters who visit your great state in your management plans. For one, out of state residents already pay a sizeable amount to keep OUR federal lands maintained.

Consider more than increases in killing in your special interest focused management plans.

Jonathan Way
89 Ebenezer Road
Osterville MA 02655

Please visit my websites: (1) Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research (<http://www.easterncoyotereseach.com/>) where you can purchase my books [Suburban Howls \[easterncoyotereseach.com\]](#) and [My Yellowstone Experience \[easterncoyotereseach.com\]](#), read [peer-reviewed Publications \[easterncoyotereseach.com\]](#), and support creating a [wildlife watching refuge in the town of Barnstable \[easterncoyotereseach.com\]](#); and (2) [My Yellowstone Experience \[myyellowstoneexperience.org\]](#) which details my experiences viewing the spectacular hydrothermal features, scenery, and wildlife within Yellowstone National Park.

36. **From:** John Miller Miller <mtjwmiller@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 1:57 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] wolf hunting and trapping seasons

Dear FWP Commission,

I am writing to ask that you NOT extend the hunting and trapping season for wolves in region 1 nor increase the quotas per hunter. Also I ask that you not increase the number of wolves taken during the hunting season north of Yellowstone Park. I would like to see the science that supports those who are proposing the changes. I suspect there is none. In fact what I have read the past several years is just the opposite, that being elk and deer are at an all time high in the state. Once again this is an attempt by those who have some ingrained dislike/hatred towards this animal to influence those who ultimately make what I hope is a management decision based on science.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Miller

Roscoe, Mt.

37. **From:** Peter Wood <nativeofny1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 3:10 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf hunting and trapping...

is barbaric and obscene. Aren't you supposed to protect wildlife, not torture and kill it?

Peter Wood

38. **From:** Dahl Wholesale <dahlwholesale@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:00 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf Hunting

Hi,

I live in the Drummond are and think It would be very beneficial to include Region 2 in with the changes for Wolf Hunting and Trapping. Why just region 1? Also consider starting the trapping season earlier for wolves. It seems we see a lot more wolf activity during general rifle season. So being able to trap for them during that time would be very helpful.

Thanks

Brett A. Graybeal

39. **From:** Dale Williams <sanemtguy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:41 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf Hunting

I am a long time, 26 plus years, Montana resident who strongly supports ethical hunting. I ask you not to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons and to maintain the current rules and regulations on wolf hunting.

I live in the Bitterroot Valley and am happy to co-exist with top predators, mountain lions, bears, and wolves to name just three. I take the measures to discourage predators from becoming habituated to human garbage, excess production from my garden, and I don't feed my pets outside. I bring my dogs inside at nighttime and if I am not with them they are in a secure fenced yard when outside. It's not hard to do. More whitetail deer are hit and killed on Montana highways than taken during hunting season so

why aren't we addressing that issue? Speeding and careless motorists present a greater risk to ungulate species than predators. I along with the majority of Americans are disgusted by unethical hunters. And the allowance of trapping is in direct opposition to the will of a vast majority of Americans as well as legal hunters. It is not longer the wild west, trapping should be relegated to the history books. The proposed FWP changes to increase wolf hunting and trapping is unnecessary and unwise from both a moral and ecological position.

Finally, the proposed rule would give Montana another "black eye" to Americans who don't live here but are public land owners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dale Williams

Florence, Montana

40. **From:** Peter Guynn <peter.guynn51@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 1:09 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf Killings

Montana FWP

Dear Sirs

I wish to add on to my just recently sent comments.

The Wolf killing should just stop period. There have certainly been many more wolves poached than you can imagine. In the Swan Valley you inadvertently have to hear these Wolf haters who openly reveal they break the law and kill wolves. You cannot trust your prized dogs to run loose lest they eat some poisoned bait set out by these people. And it has happened at least once!!

Please do not surrender our rights as stakeholders

to appease those who covet our wildlife and ecosystem as their own.

Peter Guynn

41. **From:** Dorothy Filson <djfilson@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:33 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: djfilson@bresnan.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf limit

Greetings,

I am against changing the number of wolves that can be trapped or killed from 5 to 10/person.

Wolves are one of the most effective means of controlling Chronic Wasting Disease and the populations of rodents and other species that people feel the needs to poison or kill by other means.

Killing as a solution to a situation only creates more problems as the balance of nature is further disrupted.

The restoration of wolves into Yellowstone National Park has had profound positive effects in re-establishing other species, plants forms etc.

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=20&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewjWmp2Mm77nAhXNHjQIHWyqB-YQwqsBMBN6BAgKEAk&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.retroreport.org%2Fvideo%2Fwolves-at-the-door%2F&usg=AOvVaw2lwpmBs_1OVeb7Zdv-jRUq [google.com]

Please adopt sound wildlife management methods that make sense for the preservation of all species.

Thank you,

Dorothy Filson

PO Box 553

Bozeman MT 509771

42. **From:** Laura Hendley <hikesandhorses@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:35 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf management

Dear Commission,

Please manage wolf populations according to science. If this means that to reach management goals for reduction the season must be broadened, then please do so. Please put measures into place to protect humans and their under control dogs from traps used on public lands. Please keep allowing the use of traps to control predator and furbearer populations.

Thank you,
Laura Hendley
Resident of Lewis and Clark County
Bachelor of Science from University of California with major in Biology

43. **From:** Nikhil kulkarni <nvkulk1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:39 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf proposals

Please do not kill any wolves in unit 313 and 316 and in addition stop the trapping and hunting of wolves in Montana. My family spends our vacation in Montana and contribute considerably to the Montana economy. Thank you Nick Kulkarni MD

Sent from my iPhone

44. **From:** Peter Guynn <peter.guynn51@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 12:35 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf quotas

FWP Commission

Dears Sirs,

There has been enough Wolf Killings in Montana the

past year and must be reined in going into 2020 rather than increased. Please do not allow an extension of the hunting/trapping season, increase the bag limit in Region 1 and do not raise the Wolf kill limit North of Yellowstone Park.

You should be pleased we have Wolves in our State.

Look at what has happened in Wisconsin; the Ungulate disease has made hunting a 'waste of time' (a quote from a hunter there who shot 4 deer and 3 of them had CWD) where there aren't any wolves like the Wisconsin Dells. Study the science of CWD and you will realize the Prion contamination of the landscape is only getting worse without discriminating predators who seek the 'easy' catch.

This election the voters of Colorado will vote on Prop 107 to reintroduce Wolves back into Colorado (ground zero for CWD!) Clearly the extermination of this essential predator is leading to decay of our Ungulate population as well as other undesirable results.

I am a registered voter in Montana and spend much of my time in the Swan Valley area. I am sick of hearing all these lies and misconceptions about a species which is now becoming scarce again and is essential to endure a healthy Deer and Elk population

Peter Guynn

45. **From:** Larry Rattray <rattpak@centurytel.net>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 5:31 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf regulation expansion

Commissioners,

I agree that the number of wolves in region 1 is far above what a balanced environment needs. I also believe that the rest of the state could benefit from the same increase. Region 1 is not the only area with a surplus. The number one problem is that wolves are hard to hunt or trap. After a few years of buying a tag and not seeing a wolf, people are prone to not buy the tag. Similar to the way they will quit buying elk or deer tags soon. I would suggest including 5 with the conservation license or at least in the sportsman package. I honestly do not believe the wolf harvest would increase by more than a few. I also believe that issuing more licenses will not solve the over population, but, it will eliminate the SSS attitude which is not beneficial. .

If you look at Idaho, you will see that they are talking about year around season in a lot of the state and almost year around in the rest. They are really expanding the number of licenses for hunting and for trapping. Because their state allows trappers and hunters to be reimbursed for their expenses for each wolf removed they are more apt to put in the time to target the wolves. Because of the low price on wolf pelts, trappers are not able to harvest enough to pay their expenses.

British Columbia has decided to remove 80% of their wolves to try to save their caribou herds. They have recognized the problem and have found that culling wolves helped the declining caribou herds.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my thoughts,

Larry Rattray

Proctor, Montana

rattpak@centurytel.net

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:Mail [go.microsoft.com]) for Windows 10

46. **From:** Blake Nicolazzo <blakenico@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 9:26 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf season.

As a resident of Montana and a person who eats wild game, I can not support extending wolf hunting and trapping seasons. Trapping is barbaric and cruel, hunting these animals is unwise considering what the science says about the spread of CWD.

Please consider opening your ears, minds and hearts, and get out of the back pocket of the anti-wolf mythology crowd. Humans don't have a great record with wolves, they deserve better. We are all God's creatures. If people don't like living with wolves, it's a shame for them. The more in concert we live with nature, the better. Mother Nature knows best.

Before another dime is spent killing wolves or issuing more permits for citizens to kill them, how about we focus on coexistence. Seriously.

I am furious and ashamed that this is even a consideration. How can you think this is ok? Show me any evidence that this approach is proper.

Listen to nature. Live in concert with her the best you can.

We need the wolves. More than ever. Unscientific killing off of these animals is nothing short of irresponsible and negligent.

I'm a citizen of this state and I want you to stop putting us all at risk. We are in big trouble with CWD and you will rest on the wrong side of history again if you let the mythology and ridiculousness of wolf hating lead our path.

I'll be watching where you all end up on this issue.

-Blake Nicolazzo

Missoula

47. **From:** John Vollertsen <jnative@in-tch.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 10:00 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf season

Regard this e-mail as my non-endorsement of an expanded wolf season.

John Vollertsen

Helena

48. **From:** John Roskelley <john@johnroskelley.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:36 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf trophy hunting season 2020-2021

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission:

I am a Washington resident that has hunted in Montana in the past. I also ski, ice climb, and paddle Montana rivers. In other words, I use U.S. and state public resources located in Montana and appreciate thoughtful and careful regulations.

I am opposed to extending the length of the hunting seasons for wolves in Region 1 and increasing the bag limit from 5 to 10 wolves. Wolves are important to the overall health of the ecosystem where they control over-population of ungulates by culling the sick, injured, and aging animals. They are also important to controlling and possibly eliminating Chronic Wasting Disease, which is a threat to big game hunting in Montana. Raising the bag limit and extending hunting seasons will lead to such a small population that it is possible the Gray wolf will again go extinct in this area. The state needs to ensure these animals have viable populations now and in the future. Changes should be done incrementally, not done in jumps without Best Available Science supporting changes this extreme.

Sincerely,

John Roskelley
10121 E Heron View Ln
Mead, WA 99021
509-954-5653

49. **From:** Bev Marie <bev.marie56@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 4:53 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf trophy hunting season for the 2020-2021

Please Do NOT accept the proposal to the wolf hunting season in Region 1 that extends another one and half months to the season and do NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves. This is NOT good management of coexistence with the gray wolf. It is time to recognize the vital role that the Gray Wolf can play in the fight against Chronic Wasting Disease in removing the infected elk and deer and helping to stop the continued spreading of CWD in Montana.

If the proposal is passed it will lead to the extinction of the Gray Wolf in Region 1. It will not reflect a management plan that promotes coexistence with the Gray Wolf.

Thank you for your time, Im just one Voice trying to make a difference..

Sincerely,
Bev Perez

50. **From:** Kathy Kinzfogl <birdfrog@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 12:25 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolves

I am writing you to ask you not to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons, not to increase the bag limit from five to 10 wolves in Region 1, and to maintain the number of wolves allowed to be killed in unit 33 and 316, just north of Yellowstone National Park, at one per unit. In 2017 at least 254 wolves were killed; hunters killed 166 wolves and trappers killed 88 wolves. An additional 100 wolves are allowed to be killed on private lands. Yet those who "harvest" wolves are not satisfied with existing quotas. Wolves will be needed in suppressing CWD. I would like my comments to be part of the official record. Thank you for your time. Kathy Kinzfogl. Swan Valley Montana

51. **From:** trailrider2mt <trailrider2mt@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 8:08 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolves

Please do not increase the limit on wolf hunting! This animal is vital to our ecosystem which has been proven several times! These animals have gotten such a bad rap. Its time to stop listening to the hunters.

Thank you!

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

52. **From:** Robin Dorman <robin@ebluegoose.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:14 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolves in Montana!

Dear FWP Commissioners, I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 from two to one, to NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves. Instead, please consider the following:

1. Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy

ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.

2. Wolves may contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist has stated that "Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease." He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves "allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place": <https://bit.ly/2udVBms> [bit.ly]
3. FWP caters to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for 'recreation.' Wolves should not be managed for those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive.
4. Indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts when killing of key family members leads to a reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.
5. Killing wolves for recreation and trophies is appalling human behavior.
6. Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals.

Thank you very much.

Robin Dorman

53. **From:** Sara S <ss7220a@alumni.american.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 11:13 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolves in the Montana Wilderness

Hello,

I would like to speak out against the plan to let all hunters and trappers in Montana kill 10 wolves per year.

ELK, no longer pressured by predatory wolves, will become abundant and began to damage their own habitat, and the habitat of property owners. Having lost the fear of being hunted, elk will gather near streams, overbrowsing aspens, willows, cottonwoods, and shrubs that grow on banks and prevent erosion. Habitat for fish, amphibians, and reptiles will decline as waters become broader, shallower, and warmer without shade from streamside vegetation. Elk populations were so out of control that park

rangers began to kill and relocate elk in large numbers in an attempt to reduce their burgeoning population in Yellowstone Park until 1995.

ASPENS seldom reached full height in Yellowstone's northern valleys, when wolves were not in the park. Browsed by elk, the new sprouts and shoots were eaten, and existing trees were stunted. Along streams and around wetlands willows and cottonwoods will also not regenerate as effectively under heavy browsing pressure from elk. Fewer young trees meant songbirds lost nesting space. Beaver populations decreased as they rely on this vegetation to survive.

COYOTES, no longer having to share the land with wolves, will become much more abundant. There are already many stories of coyotes eating family pets in Montana. Though coyotes will kill elk calves, they prey mainly on pocket gophers, voles, and other small mammals. They also specialize in killing the fawns of pronghorn. The lack of carcasses left behind by wolves reduces the food traditionally available for coyotes, foxes, badgers, raptors, and other scavengers.

WOLVES play a vital role in keeping the world of predator and prey in balance. Once they've eaten their fill, the leftovers from their kills provide food for scavengers, including endangered species such as bald and golden eagles, magpies, coyotes, ravens, and bears. Wolves boost ecotourism and far more can be made via ecotourism longterm than hunting licenses.

Please do not let a few hunters and trappers who enjoy hunting wolves in cruel and vengeful methods dominate this discourse. Wolves are an incredible part of the ecosystem and their role in Montana's beauty should be taken into account.

Thank you so much,

Sara

54. *From: Hope Ferdowsian, MD <hopeferdowsian@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 3:53 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] wolves*

Dear FWP Commissioners,

I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 from two to zero, to *not* accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to *not* increase the so-called bag limit to 10 wolves. Instead, please consider the following:

Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves to themselves, their families, and to healthy ecosystems—in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are one

of our best forms of defense. Wolves should not be treated based on politics, but according to the best available science and with empathy and compassion.

Wolves may contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist has stated that “Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease.” He along with other biologists theorized that killing off wolves “allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place”: <https://bit.ly/2udVBms> [bit.ly]. As a doctor with expertise in this area, I agree.

FWP appears to be catering to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for "recreation." Wolves should not be treated according to those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive—and with respect—true respect—for the wolves themselves.

Indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts. Trapping is a very cruel way to kill any sentient being.

Violence against animals is a gateway to violence against humans. As a physician and public health specialist, and as a human rights expert, I have spent decades studying this area and seeing it play out across the US and six of seven continents.

I hope you will consider this issue with the serious attention and compassion it deserves. It is what any of us would ask of another. Do unto others...

Sincerely,

Hope Ferdowsian, MD, MPH, FACP, FACPM

Associate Professor of Medicine, University of New Mexico School of Medicine |

Medical Expert, Physicians for Human Rights |

Author, [Phoenix Zones: Where Strength Is Born and Resilience Lives](https://hopeferdowsian.com) [hopeferdowsian.com] |

President, [Phoenix Zones Initiative](https://phoenixzonesinitiative.org) [phoenixzonesinitiative.org]

55. **From: Brad Hall <bhallfirm@gmail.com>**
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 3:03 PM

To: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] wolves

I heard recently that the number of wolves that can be hunted and trapped might be increased. I'd like to register my objection. Please don't. there is enough stress on wildlife, especially on wolves and coyotes.

thanks for your consideration.
Po Hall

56. **From: Sharon/Steve Lamar <lamar@blackfoot.net>**
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 12:05 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] wolves

Dear Commissioners:

I urge you NOT to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons, NOT to increase the bag limit from five to 10 wolves in Region 1, and to maintain the number of wolves allowed to be killed in unit 313 and 316, just north of Yellowstone National Park, at one per unit.

Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.

FWP caters to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for 'recreation.' Wolves should not be managed for those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive.

Increasing the bag limit could cause some packs to be totally decimated.

Sharon Lamar

P.O. Box 1077

Condon, MT 59826

57. **From:** Billy Angus <The_WiZaRd1959@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:49 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LEAVE OUR WOLVES ALONE!!

Wolves have been around long before man existed
and only God decides what stays and what goes, NOT MAN!!!!!!
The Creator put wolves and other wildlife on this Earth for a reason,
not to be brutalized in cold blood for cheap thrills!!

Yet time and time again, you have turned a blind eye and
a deaf ear to the American people, indigenous nations
(who revere our four-legged relatives very sacred),
and God, just to appease a handful of ruthless redneck serpents
disguised as humans who dress up like serpents
to appease the Devil!!


Well, this time I am giving the FWP an ultimatum:

Leave our wolves alone or else I will no longer
recognize Montana as the 41st State in the U.S.
I hate trophy hunters and trappers with a passion,
as they're nothing but a bunch of ruthless redneck
hillbillies who left their brains back in the vulgar 19th Century!!
This is 2020 A.D., not 1870!!
We're not in the Old West anymore!!
Leave our wolves alone or surrender the colors
of your state flag and the Stars & Stripes!!

I guess you bureaucratic infidels want to succumb to chronic wasting disease

because you've murdered all of our wolves and other wildlife!!
(and yes, I'm also the master of sarcasm)

Wolves are not vermin...
It's those bloody redneck
trophy hunters and trappers who are the real vermin!!

Ya' know, I'd rather sacrifice my life on the Cross
(like Jesus Christ) 
than see Nature's fur-babies be made into trophies
for redneck idol-worshipers!!!

If you got any brains and gonads,
you would end trophy hunting and trapping once and for all
and take up a REAL sport such as
basketball, skiing and snowboarding,
and GET RID OF THOSE STUPID UGLY TRAPS!!

If you still refuse to listen, then a curse of a
lifetime of bad luck will be on
the FWP, and every trophy hunter and trapper
on the face of the Earth, and every time we loose
a wild sentient being to the evil trophy hunters and trappers,
the curse shall be amplified upon those who murdered
Nature's sacred wonders!!

 The WiZaRd 



58. **From:** Anna Br-An <annekea1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:38 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWPComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana, do Not allow the killing of even more Wolves, this must END NOW!

To the FWP Commission members:

In Montana, wildlife killers, rural legislators and ranchers, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) dictate the prosecution of Wolves.

Consequently, archaic management is done by numbers, with prejudice, instead of the best available science and with compassion.

In 2017 alone, at least 254 wolves were killed for recreation and trophies. Hunters killed 166 wolves and trappers killed 88 wolves. An additional 100 wolves are allowed to be killed on private lands.

Yet, the wolf killers are not satisfied and want even more wolves to die.

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is now proposing to even Extend! the merciless sadistic hunting and trapping seasons for Wolves!

You are proposing the following changes in Northwest Montana (Region 1), where nearly 50% of the total number of Wolves are killed every year! We are AGAINST

1. Extending the general and archery hunting season by one month, to begin two weeks earlier, on August 15 (instead of September 1) and two weeks longer through March 31 (instead of March 15).

2. Extending the trapping season by two weeks through March 15 – the wolf trapping season currently starts at December 15 and ends on Feb. 28.

3. Increasing the ‘bag limit’ for an individual hunter/trapper from 5 to 10 (!) wolves. The proposal also does not drop the wolf quota in two units (313, 316) just north of Yellowstone National Park as a previous proposal suggested and instead, maintains to kill two wolves in each unit!!!!

Do Not allow the killing of even more Wolves, this must END NOW!

Every individual wolf matters for her/himself, for their mates, families, ecosystem health and for us, who value them alive! I condemn these disastrous plans!

FWP Commissioners, I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 from two to one, to NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves.

Instead, please consider the following:

Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.

Wolves may contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist has stated that “Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease.” He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves “allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place”: <https://bit.ly/2udVBms>

FWP caters to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for ‘recreation.’ Wolves should not be managed for those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive and thriving.

Indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts when killing of key family members leads to a reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.

Killing wolves for recreation and trophies is appalling human behavior.

Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals!

Sincerely: Anna Brewer, Tina Beurtels; John Summers; Henry T.; Vickey Osborn; Teddy Miller , Amanda Fields; Jurgen Sorens; Rita Suffolk; Mary Dalton; Joseph Pritchard; Kimberley Fields, Montana; Simon Sears; Beverly Woods; Anita Brewer; Daniel Russel; Petra Stafford; Kim Wright; Daphne Harlington, New Mexico; Kathy Stafford, Joan Butterfield, Kenneth Lawson, Myrthe Low, Diane Bremer, US

59. **From: Frédéric Jaubert <jaubert-f@hotmail.fr>**
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:43 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana, do Not allow the killing of even more Wolves, this must END NOW!

To the FWP Commission members:

In Montana, wildlife killers, rural legislators and ranchers, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) dictate the prosecution of Wolves.

Consequently, archaic management is done by numbers, with prejudice, instead of the best available science and with compassion.

In 2017 alone, at least 254 wolves were killed for recreation and trophies. Hunters killed 166 wolves and trappers killed 88 wolves. An additional 100 wolves are allowed to be killed on private lands.

Yet, the wolf killers are not satisfied and want even more wolves to die.

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is now proposing to even Extend! the merciless sadistic hunting and trapping seasons for Wolves!

You are proposing the following changes in Northwest Montana (Region 1), where nearly 50% of the total number of Wolves are killed every year! We are AGAINST

1. Extending the general and archery hunting season by one month, to begin two weeks earlier, on August 15 (instead of September 1) and two weeks longer through March 31 (instead of March 15).
2. Extending the trapping season by two weeks through March 15 – the wolf trapping season currently starts at December 15 and ends on Feb. 28.

3. Increasing the 'bag limit' for an individual hunter/trapper from 5 to 10 (!) wolves. The proposal also does not drop the wolf quota in two units (313, 316) just north of Yellowstone National Park as a previous proposal suggested and instead, maintains to kill two wolves in each unit!!!!

Do Not allow the killing of even more Wolves, this must END NOW!

Every individual wolf matters for her/himself, for their mates, families, ecosystem health and for us, who value them alive! I condemn these disastrous plans!

FWP Commissioners, I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 from two to one, to NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves.

Instead, please consider the following:

Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.

Wolves may contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist has stated that "Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease." He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves "allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place": <https://bit.ly/2udVBms>

FWP caters to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for 'recreation.' Wolves should not be managed for those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive and thriving.

Indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts when killing of key family members leads to a reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.

Killing wolves for recreation and trophies is appalling human behavior.

Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals!

Sincerely:

Frédéric Jaubert

38230, Pont de Chérury

France

60. **From:** Andrea Sreiber <suomigirl666@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 12:27 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re. wolf killing

To the FWP Commission members:

In Montana, wildlife killers, rural legislators and ranchers, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) dictate the prosecution of Wolves.

Consequently, archaic management is done by numbers, with prejudice, instead of the best available science and with compassion.

In 2017 alone, at least 254 wolves were killed for recreation and trophies. Hunters killed 166 wolves and trappers killed 88 wolves. An additional 100 wolves are allowed to be killed on private lands. Yet, the wolf killers are not satisfied and want even more wolves to die.

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is now proposing to even Extend! the merciless sadistic hunting and trapping seasons for Wolves!

You are proposing the following changes in Northwest Montana (Region 1), where nearly 50% of the total number of Wolves are killed every year! We are AGAINST

1. Extending the general and archery hunting season by one month, to begin two weeks earlier, on August 15 (instead of September 1) and two weeks longer through March 31 (instead of March 15).
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Do Not allow the killing of even more Wolves, this must END NOW!

Every individual wolf matters for her/himself, for their mates, families, ecosystem health and for us, who value them alive! I condemn these disastrous plans!

FWP Commissioners, I am asking you to reduce the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 from two to one, do NOT accept the proposal to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Region 1, and to NOT increase the bag limit to 10 wolves.

Instead, please consider the following:

Montana needs to recognize and value the importance of wolves for healthy ecosystems, in particular under the threat of climate change where healthy ecosystems are our best defense. Wolves should not be managed based on politics, but according to the best available science and with compassion.

Wolves may contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Dr. Valerius Geist has stated that “Wolves will certainly bring the disease to a halt ... They will remove infected individuals and clean up carcasses that could transmit the disease.” He along with other biologists even theorized that killing off wolves “allowed for CWD to take hold in the first place”: <https://bit.ly/2udVBms>
FWP caters to wildlife killers and not to the general public, who increasingly opposes killing wild animals for ‘recreation.’ Wolves should not be managed for those who enjoy killing them but rather for the majority of the public who wants to see them alive and thriving.

The indiscriminate slaughter of wolves disrupts their social systems and may contribute to greater human conflicts when the killing of key family members leads to reduced effectiveness of the wolf family for hunting or cause them to lose their territory.

Killing wolves for recreation and trophies is appalling human behavior.
Trapping of any animal, whether wolves or members of other species is barbaric, cruel and there is no justification this type of torture of wild animals!

Sincerely,
Andrea Sreiber
Serbia

61. **From:** Hunter, Idamarie <Idamarie.Hunter@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:32 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf Hunt proposal

I will be brief! How does killing wolves in an area proven to have CWD even make sense. C’mon you guys. We have got to do better for our wildlife. Do not allow this hunt!

Please
Idamarie Hunter

62. **From:** Cary Griffin <CGriffin@griffinhammis.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:06 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf hunt

Why on earth do you propose additional hunting and trapping? Trapping is inhumane and effective only in killing non-target animals. Shouldn't you be protecting wildlife? Get a new means of funding...work on that with the legislature...have you sold your souls? Stop it!!

I have been a sportsman all my life but I see no reason to hunt natural predators other than your weak response to right wing politics. Look to the future, not the 19th century. Remember that FWP set the standard for catch and release, natural reproduction for trout and got slammed by lesser minds...today it's the international model. Move forward.

With all due respect, you need to change or lose the will of the people.

Cary Griffin
Griffin-Hammis Associates
5582 Klements Lane
Florence, MT 59833 USA
(406) 360-2430
griffinhammis.com

"Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want."
R. Pausch



63. **From:** Anne Dahl <outlook_2B21B84BE2A3C0EF@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 3:16 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolves

Dear FWP Commission, I'm writing to recommend that you not extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons and that you maintain the quota for hunters to kill wolves in Region 1 at five wolves or fewer, and the number of wolves allowed to be killed in Units 313 and 316 north of Yellowstone remain at one wolf per unit.

I live in the Swan Valley. I walk, hike or ski most days of the year. I spend a lot of time outdoors and I have not seen a wolf in Montana yet. This is a big disappointment because I love seeing wildlife. I've been here 38 years. I see bears, lions and coyotes frequently. I've even seen a wolverine in the Mission Mountains. I haven't heard wolves howl in the Swan Valley recently or seen wolf tracks in the snow this winter. I know other people have been more fortunate and have seen wolves. But I believe too many wolves are being killed, and that is part of the reason I haven't seen any.

I'm concerned about CWD. If we want to control the spread of this disease we should be maintaining predator populations, not reducing them. Hunters (I'm one) have plenty of opportunities to shoot deer and elk in this state, without increasing the wolf harvest.

I believe we need all the predator and prey species that were here 100 years ago to be present now, and that the predators and prey should be allowed to balance their populations without human manipulation.

Thank you,
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